

bill, if something happens that they have to disburse, they can do it in a proper fashion. So I endorse this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this bill. I am also a cosponsor of the bill. I think Senator Johnson has explained the bill and the amendments correctly and in a good way, but the co-op credit associations have been in business for a long time and this is why I think we ought to give them an option to change to a bank if they care to do so. They have proved to be a necessity and a convenience in their various communities. And, of course, we have a lot of elderly people in these small communities, and, of course, if we would force them to quit doing business, these elderly would have to drive greater distances in doing their banking business. Another reason I have a great interest in this is because I have four of these co-op credit associations in the 19th Legislative District that I represent. And, of course, one of the advantages of allowing these credit associations of becoming a bank is that the credit associations have limited lives. They stand a chance of not being able to have their charters renewed. I feel that a bank doesn't have to be big to be effective and to provide a good service in their community. This bill also gives the co-ops, these co-op credit associations, an option and does not require them to become a bank. Of course, like I said before, the only one that was opposing the bill was the State Banking Department and with the amendments that we have offered and adopted, I think we have corrected this. So I would hope that you would be able to support this bill as amended this morning.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson, did you wish to close? The question is the advancement of LB 252. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: LB 252 advances. We are going to skip 215 today and it will be up first tomorrow. We will go on to LB 78, Senator Pirsch's bill. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 78 was offered by Senator Pirsch. (Read title.) The bill was first read on January 6, Mr. President. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are